

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

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/033 W

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R 050702Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO DEA HQS WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
SECSTATE WASHDC 199

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DEA HQS PASS GUNN/ST, FRANK/STF, OLIVANTI/TR, SOBOL/STL, EVANS/
EN, DOYLE/ENOF FROM SAIC BROWN

BANGKOK PASS DEA

DEPT PASS S-N/M, TIMBS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: TRAINING ASSISTANCE

1. IN WHAT SINGAPORE'S HIGH COURT DESCRIBED AS A "BORDERLINE CASE" THE TESTIMONY FROM A GOVERNMENT CHEMIST THAT THE AMOUNT OF PURE HEROIN INVOLVED HAD BEEN OVERESTIMATED, SAVED A TRAFFICKER FROM THE GALLOWS. THE DEFENDANT ORIGINALLY FACED A CHARGE OF TRAFFICKING IN 18.5 GRAMS OF PURE HEROIN, HOWEVER, UNDER DEFENCE CROSS EXAMINATION THE CHEMIST TESTIFIED THE PURE HEROIN CONTENT COULD WELL BE BELOW THE 15 GRAM MINIMUM AMOUNT FOR WHICH THE DEATH PENALTY WOULD BE IMPOSED.

2. THE TESTIMONY PROVIDED BY THE CHEMIST NOTED THAT DUE TO IRREGULARITIES, IMPURITIES, AND POOR INSTRUMENT CONDITIONS THE QUANTITY COULD BE OVER ESTIMATED BY AT LEAST 10 PER CENT.

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 02010 050923Z

THE SODIUM NITRITE AND THE GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY METHOD ARE USED BY SINGAPORE'S DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC SERVICES.

3. AS THE RESULT OF THIS PARTICULAR COURT CASE THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC SERVICE CONTACTED THE SINGAPORE DISTRICT OFFICE, AND A DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON 5/4/78 REGARDING POSSIBLE DEA ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION TO A DISCUSSION

ON THE FORENSIC CHEMISTS COURSE, A PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR ONE OF THEIR CHEMISTS TO WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH A DEA FORENSIC CHEMIST WAS DISCUSSED, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GOS WOULD PROVIDE ALL TRAVEL AND PER DIEM EXPENSES. THE DIRECTOR MR. M.C. DUTT WILL PURSUE THIS SUGGESTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE FOR FUNDING.

4. HE SAID DURING THE DISCUSSION THAT THE PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS HAD NOTED THAT ONE INDICATOR OF DETERMINING A COUNTRY'S SUCCESS WAS TO CHART THE PERCENTAGE OF HEROIN OBTAINED FROM SEIZURES. MR. DUTT SAID TO HIS, AND EVERYONE'S SURPRISE, THE PURITY LEVEL HAD DECREASED BY 10 PER CENT DURING THE PAST YEAR. NOTE: THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO HEROIN NO. 4 TRAFFIC IN SINGAPORE, AND THE HEROIN NO. 3 SEIZURES RANGED FROM 40-50 PER CENT IN HEROIN CONTENT.

5. DIRECTOR BUTT WELCOMES THE JULY 21-22 VISIT OF DIRECTOR JOHN GUNN AND FORENSIC SCIENCES DIVISION CHIEF RICHARD FRANK, AND HAS SCHEDULED A BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION PERIOD FOR SATURDAY, 7/22/78.

6. MR. DUTT'S DEPARTMENT IS NOT ON DISTRIBUTION FOR THE MICROGRAM OR OTHER DEA PUBLICATIONS, AND WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THESE MATERIALS. SUGGEST THAT THE PUBLICATIONS BE SENT TO:

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THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC SERVICES
OUTRAM ROAD
SINGAPORE 3
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

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HOLDRIDGE

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